

the State (by the latter gentleman,) one of the Cannons brought over by the first settlers under Lord Baltimore, beg leave to report:

That intimately connected as is the history of Maryland with the first settlements of St. Mary's, your committee deem that any remaining relic of that settlement, serving as a link of connexion between the present and past, should be properly a subject of State preservation. In all ages, tradition, either of legend or monument has been the most impressive and eloquent record of history—a fragment of a ruined temple—a broken weapon of battle gathered from some well fought field, convey more instantaneously and impressingly to the mind, the history of the periods they commemorate, than the crowded and elaborate page of the annalist. The one may speak of a grandeur and magnificence long passed by, a power extinct, a religion superseded, a nation whose peculiarities of language custom and law are unrecognised in their successors, the other of a time and place where bravery and patriotism triumphed over tyranny, or too powerful oppression crushed the last hopes of the votaries of freedom—it may tell either the birth-place or the grave of a nation's strength. All intervening changes, the thousand incidents of each year's birth, pass through the mind of the observer at the moment,—the simple relic annihilates time, and the present and the past stand in connexion or contrast.

As Marylanders, it becomes us to cherish and preserve whatever will remind us of the struggles, the labours, or the virtues of our forefathers. Like him who looking on the portraits of his buried ancestry, gathers from crowding memory fresh impulses to virtuous emulation of their fame, so we, in looking on this time-honored relic of a period long gone by, but not yet forgotten, may from the associations with its early history, learn to emulate that love of freedom, unswerving patriotism and liberality of mind, which distinguished our fathers, at the time of its landing. It tells us of their fierce struggle with the yet untamed savage, of their early experiments in civil administration, of the resistance to oppression which even then, the free atmosphere had inspired the colonists. It was near the spot from which this cannon was taken, that the first germ of freedom, now the lordly tree of our State was planted. It was here that bigotry, vanquished by the bright spirit of religious tolerance, first gave the unwilling signal for flight from our soil. It was here our first essay in civil government was made. A memento of a period so interesting to Maryland should be preserved. Let the State guard that which belongs to and emblazons her history. We have too long neglected the preservation of similar memorials of her early times and men—those priceles in themselves we have neglected and lost. Let us preserve what is left. Let us keep those remaining records, so eloquent of what Maryland was, that they may aid in teaching her sons what she should ever be. Therefore be it